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Message Text

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12
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

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---------- 040595
R 011702Z AUG 75
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3437
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 11900

FROM AMBASSADOR STERNER

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, TC
SUBJ: UAE INTERNAL AFFAIRS

1. IN MY CONVERSATIONS WITH SHAIKH RASHID, MAHDI TAJER, AND AHMAD SUWAIDI HERE IN LONDON, I FOUND AS EXPECTED HEAVY PREOCCUPATION WITH NEXT STEPS IN INTERNAL DEVELOPMENT OF UAE. RASHID TOLD ME THAT SHAIKH ZAYID HAD SOUGHT TO HAVE HIM AGREE IN PRINCIPLE TO CONCEPT OF MILITARY UNIFICATION BEFORE SEEING PRECISELY WHAT ARAB MILITARY EXPERTS WOULD RECOMMEND, BUT RASHID TOLD ME HE HAD SAID HE WASN'T SIGNING ANYTHING UNTIL HE SAW PRECISELY WHAT WAS BEING PROPOSED. ACCORDING TO SUWAIDI EXPERTS FINAL REPORT WILL BE TABLED FOR RULERS CONSIDERATION AT SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING IN LATE AUGUST OR EARLY SEPTEMBER. RASHID ONCE AGAIN WENT THROUGH LONG CHRONICLE OF EPISODES AND EXAMPLES ILLUSTRATING CORRUPTION AND MAL-ADMINISTRATION IN ABU DHABI WITH CLEAR MESSAGE THAT THINGS WOULD HAVE TO IMPROVE A LOT IN HIS EYES BEFORE HE BECAME INVOLVED. I ASKED HIM WHAT HE THOUGHT OF PROPOSAL (WHICH I UNDERSTAND WAS PUT FORWARD BY SHAIKH SAQR OF RAS AL KHAIMAH) THAT EACH EMIRATE CONTRIBUTE 50 PERCENT OF ITS
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INCOME ON ESTABLISHED BASIS TO FEDERAL BUDGET, WHICH

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WOULD PROVIDE UNDERPINNINGS FOR STRONGER FEDERAL CABINET. AND WHAT ABOUT PROPOSAL THAT HE, SHAIKH RASHID, BE MADE PRIME MINISTER UNDER THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES? RASHID LOOKED POSITIVELY ALARMED. HE SAID, "GIVE ME THE REST OF THE EMIRATES, BUT I DON'T WANT ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THAT MESS IN ABU DHABI".

2. RASHID ALSO TOLD ME THERE HAD BEEN MEETING BETWEEN HIMSELF, SHAIKH ZAYID AND AMIR FAHD HERE DURING WHICH FAHD HAD QUIETLY URGED ADVANTAGES OF TIGHTER FEDERATION.

3. COMMENT: I HAVE IMPRESSION THAT SO FAR AT LEAST RASHID IS HOLDING HIS OWN, AND THAT HE IS DETERMINED NOT TO BE PRESSURED OR MANEUVERED INTO INCREASING FEDERAL AUTHORITY FASTER THAN HE WANTS, WHICH IS TO SAY, IN HIS PRESENT MOOD, NOT VERY FAST.

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